

The Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program

(Formerly the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Grants Program and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program)

Background

On November 20, 2004, the U.S. Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations bill (HR 4818), which consolidated the Department Of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward J. Byrne Memorial Grant Program and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program (LLEBG) into a new program, the Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program. This consolidation required the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for the grant, to implement program changes as a result of this consolidation.

The procedure for allocating the Byrne/ JAG funds to the states is set by a formula based on population and UCR Part 1 statistics in combination with a minimum allocation to ensure that each state and territory receives an appropriate share. The funding formula under JAG provides a 60/40 split of funds between the state and local agencies with 60 percent managed by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and 40 percent managed from the federal level by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Additional background information, as well as the federal application process for local jurisdictions, is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html.

Q&A

Q: How does Byrne/JAG differ from Byrne and LLEBG?

A: The programs differ in various ways, most notably that the LLEBG program was abolished and the funds have been decreased. Now most local jurisdictions must apply directly to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for their share of the 40 percent allocation. (A list of eligible jurisdictions is available on the BJA web site). The reporting requirements will be more stringent and programs must be able to prove effectiveness.

Some smaller jurisdictions do not appear on the list for the 40 percent allocation (these are agencies that previously received LLEBG non-competitive grants under \$10,000). These agencies must apply directly to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission for this money. That deadline is April 22, 2005 (please see [announcement](#) and [application](#)).

Q: Can I apply for funding under the 60 percent state allocation as well as the 40 percent local jurisdiction allocation?

A: If your agency is on the list for the 40 percent allocation, you may apply for funding under both areas. When you apply for funds from ACJC you will be required to show what funds from BJA you applied for and how those funds are to be used. With the ever decreasing amount of funds available, ACJC is stressing the importance of cooperative and effective use of these funds.

Q: If my agency is not on the 40 percent allocation list managed by BJA, how do I apply for the under \$10,000 grants?

A: ACJC will manage the under \$10,000 grants via the online Grants Management System on www.azcjc.gov. These are non-competitive grants but must still meet the funding priorities set by the Commission. The application process will be identical to other online Grants Management System applications.

Q: Is there a match requirement for the JAG grants?

A: The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission will require a 25 percent match to maximize the effectiveness of these funds.

Q: What are the program areas eligible for funding under Byrne/JAG?

A: The following program areas are authorized for funding:

- Law enforcement programs
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education programs
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs

Q: I understand that the Commission has designated priority funding areas. Must my application meet these requirements?

A: The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission adopted a state strategy to maximize the effectiveness of funds available for drug enforcement activities and ensure these funds were utilized in a collaborative, cohesive approach to the problem. This approach is described in the *2004-2007 Strategy- Arizona Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control*, which can be found at <http://azcjc.gov/pubs/home/2004-2007%20Strategy.pdf>.

These four priority areas will be used by the Commission in the selection process to decide funding. Agencies are strongly encouraged to give appropriate consideration to the priority areas when preparing their applications. These areas are:

1. Multi-jurisdictional task forces and tandem prosecution projects
2. Criminal Justice Records Improvement
3. Forensic Laboratories, Adjudication, and Detention
4. Prevention, Education, and Drug Treatment Programs

Q: Has the funding been reduced because the two programs were consolidated?

A: The overall funds to Arizona have been drastically cut over the last five years, only part of this reduction is due to the consolidation. In an effort to minimize the impact to current programs the Commission decided to fund programs as closely to last year as possible. However, programs are going to be required to show effectiveness through their reports.